



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

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Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

October 24, 2014

Date Complaint Received: 10/20/14
Complaint Received By: Chad Reckling, SW II, Lee County DHS
Provider Name and Location: Mary Mathias 718 East 7 th St Muscatine IA 52761
Complaint: Complainant states that when they arrived to the home on 10/20/14 that Mary indicated to them that she was bathing her husband. There were four daycare children in the kitchen (ages from 5 and younger) and one toddler in the playroom when complainant arrived. The complainant was left alone for 5 to 10 minutes with the children in the kitchen until another adult came into the home to help the provider. Rule basis: IAC 110.5(9) The provider meets the following requirements: Gives careful supervision at all times.
Findings: 10/21/14 This worker went to the daycare home of Mary Mathias and confronted her on the allegations before the department. There were 5 daycare children present during today's visit. Mary admitted that she was giving her husband a bath when daycare children were present as she wanted to take care of this chore earlier in the day. She indicated that Pam (her approved substitute/assistant) came to the home after the in-home daycare consultant arrived. This worker indicated that the daycare children were left unsupervised while she was doing this in either the kitchen with an in-home child care consultant or in the play room adjacent to the bathroom with no one there to supervise until another individual showed up to the house approximately 5 to 10 minutes later. Mary shared the department's concern in this lack of supervision and that one of her toddler's that she was watching that day could have gotten out of the house or something worse could have happened since she was pre-occupied with her husband's care issues. This worker did not conduct a full compliance visit today as one had just been completed in the home on 10/10/14. Complaint: There is a preponderance of evidence to validate the current concerns in front of the department based on the provider's own admission of her actions that day. Careful supervision was not being provided when the provider was engaged in care activities for her husband for at least 5 to 10 minutes while daycare children were present. Some of the daycare children present at that time require a greater level of supervision given their age than what was given.
Resolution: Mary signed a voluntary safety plan on 10/21/14 which states: "I, Mary Mathias will insure that I provide careful supervision of my daycare children at all times and will attend to the needs of her husband's medical condition after her assistant arrives in the home or will wait until her daycare children are no longer present in the home for this." Mary and this worker discussed her requesting more in-home nursing assistance for her husband while

he is present in the home to help with such chores as bathing and restroom assistance. Mary was very amenable to this and would be requesting this assistance at her husband's physician appointment on 10/22/14. Mary indicated that she would wait to assist her husband with bathing until the daycare children were no longer present in the home.

Mary will insure that all non-compliance items noted in the 10/10/14 visit to the home will be resolved by **11/27/14**. The department will conduct a follow up visit to the home to determine if all items noted have been addressed.

If you have any questions regarding this matter feel free to contact me at (319) 208-5521 or creckli@dhs.state.ia.us.

Sincerely,

Chad Reckling, Social Worker II
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Burlington IA 52601

MACHELLE PEZLEY

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